

MARVEL  
COMICS



#24

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MAXIMUM SECURITY



The AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN



MACKIE  
ROMITA JR.  
GREEN



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

## THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

I WANT YOU TO TAKE JILL TO SAFETY NOW!

THE RANGER AND I WILL HANDLE WARD AND THESE CREATURES... WHATEVER THEY ARE!

NO, ARTHUR, YOU TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER AND GET OUT OF HERE FAST.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE THINGS ARE THAT WARD HAS BACKING HIM UP, OR WHAT IS GOING ON WITH HIM, BUT...

...THEY LOOK MORE MY SPEED!

GENTLEMEN!

THERE IS NO NEED TO QUARREL AMONGST YOURSELVES.

MY ALIEN FRIENDS, THE ZNOX, AND I ARE GOING TO GET AROUND TO TAKING CARE OF YOU ALL.

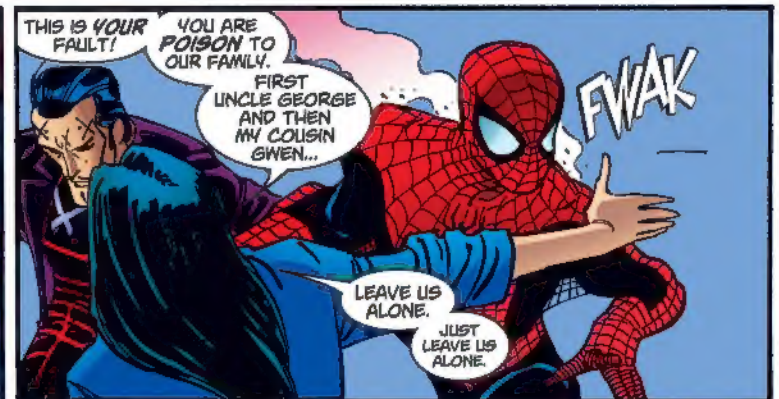
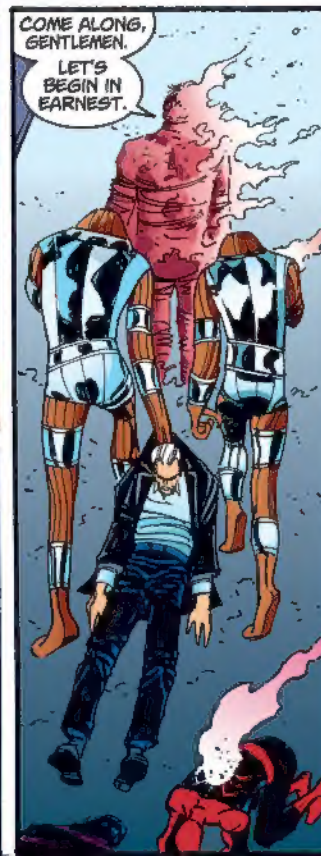
THE REAL FUN IS JUST BEGINNING. FOR YOU... AND FOR THIS WORLD.

THE WEB-SPINNER HAS KEPT TABS ON HIS FRIEND INVESTIGATOR ARTHUR STACY, WHO HAD SEARCHED FOR SENATOR STEWART WARD -- WITH THE INTENT TO KILL HIM, CLAIMING WARD WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE.

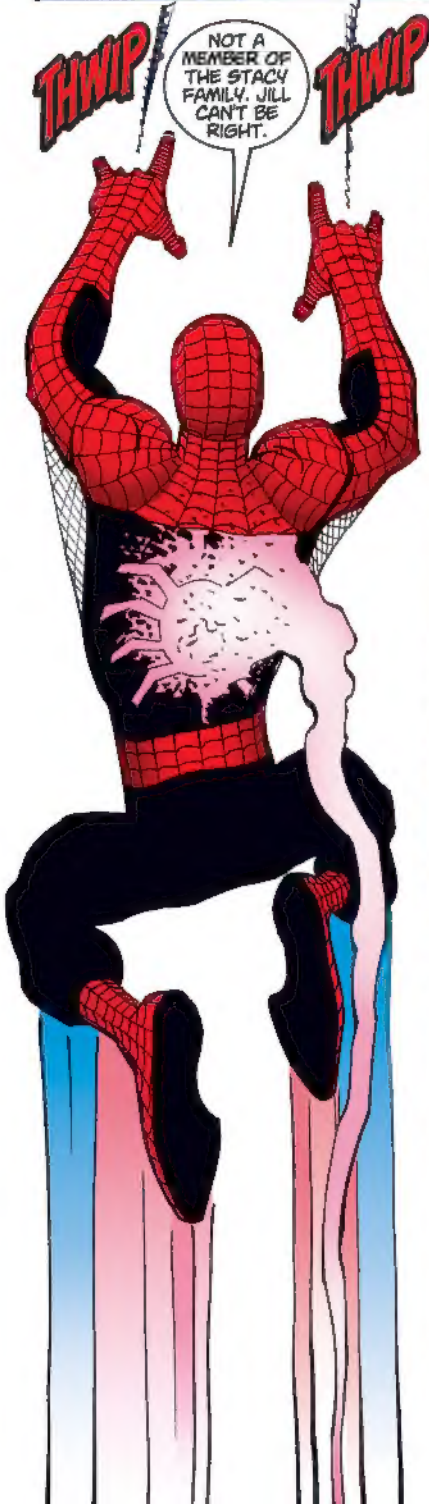
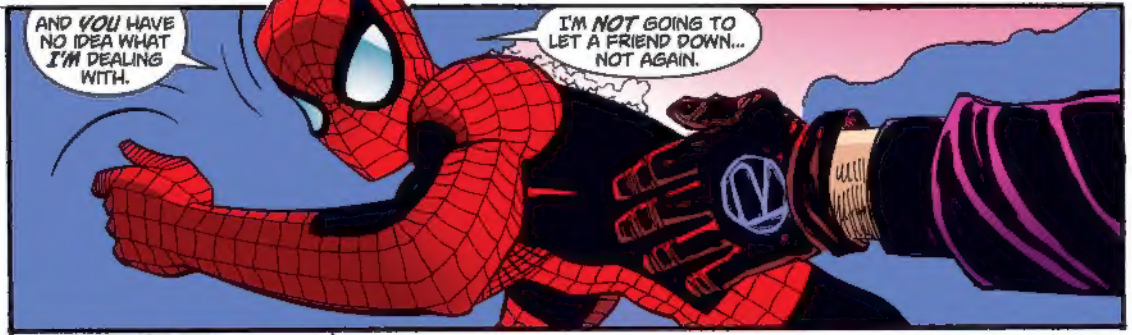
NOW, SPIDEY STANDS WITH STACY, HIS DAUGHTER JILL AND ARTHUR'S COMPANION, THE MYSTERIOUS RANGER, AS THE MUTATED FIGURE OF WARD APPEARS, FLANKED BY INHUMAN ENTITIES IN HIS SERVICE.

THAT'S THE ROLLYKIN' RECAP. AND AWAAAAH WE GO...

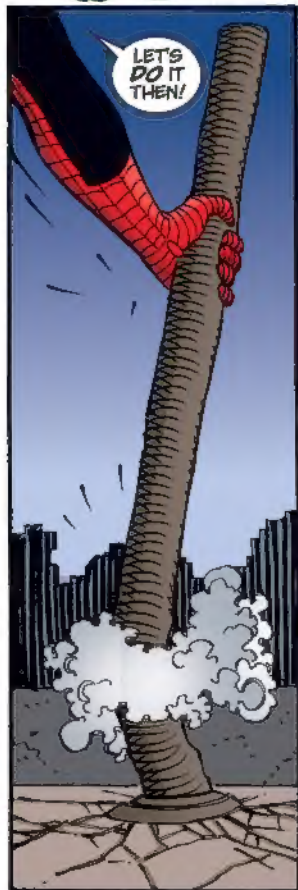




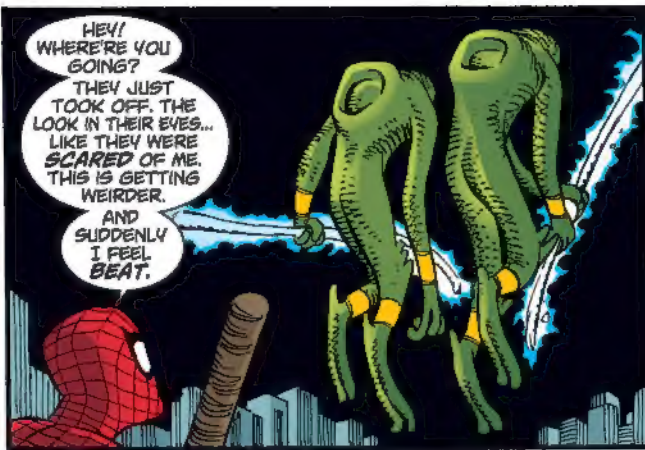












LATER THAT NIGHT...

AT THE GATES OF AN OSBORN INDUSTRIES FACTORY...

...THE GRINNING GARGOYLE KNOWN AS THE GREEN GOBLIN ENGAGES IN BATTLE WITH ONE OF THE ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS THE AAKON.

...A GOBLIN WHO HANDLES HIS PUMPKIN BOMBS CLUMSILY AND WHO RIDES HIS GLIDER TENTATIVELY...







...GOBLIN KNOCKED EASILY FROM HIS PERCH.

FROM WHERE HAS HE SUDDENLY APPEARED?

WHY HAS NEW YORK CITY SUDDENLY BECOME A STOMPING GROUND FOR ALIEN SUPER-CRIMINALS?

AND WHEN WILL SPIDER-MAN FINALLY BECOME AWARE OF THE GOBLIN'S RETURN? \*

\* For answers to all these questions check out the SPIDER-MAN: REVENGE of the GREEN GOBLIN limited series and MAXIMUM SECURITY#1 for all the gory details. — Repulsive Ralf.



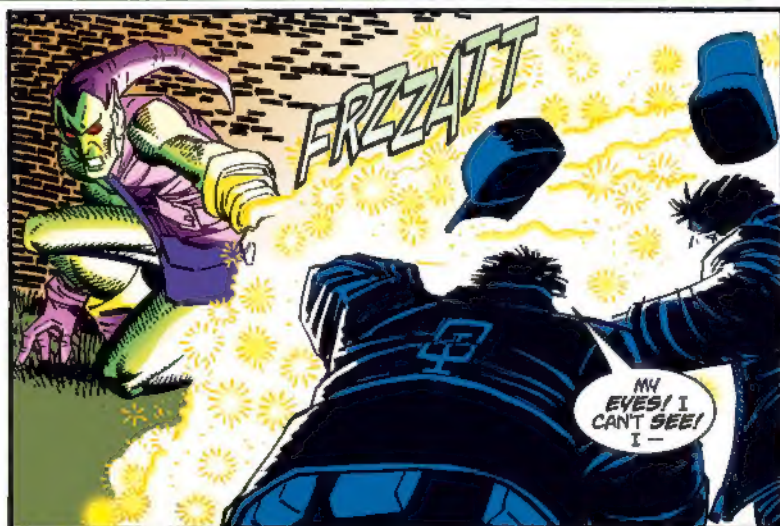
THE GREEN GOBLIN AND SOME SORT OF ALIEN-LOOKING DUDE? WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S A COP IN MIDTOWN AND SAYS THIS KINDA CRAZY STUFF IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE PLACE. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING DOWN!

YEAH? WELL, I DON'T CARE!

THESE COSTUMED MOOKS AREN'T MESSING WITH THE PLAN ON MY WATCH.

LET'S TAKE 'EM OUT AND --



FRZZATT

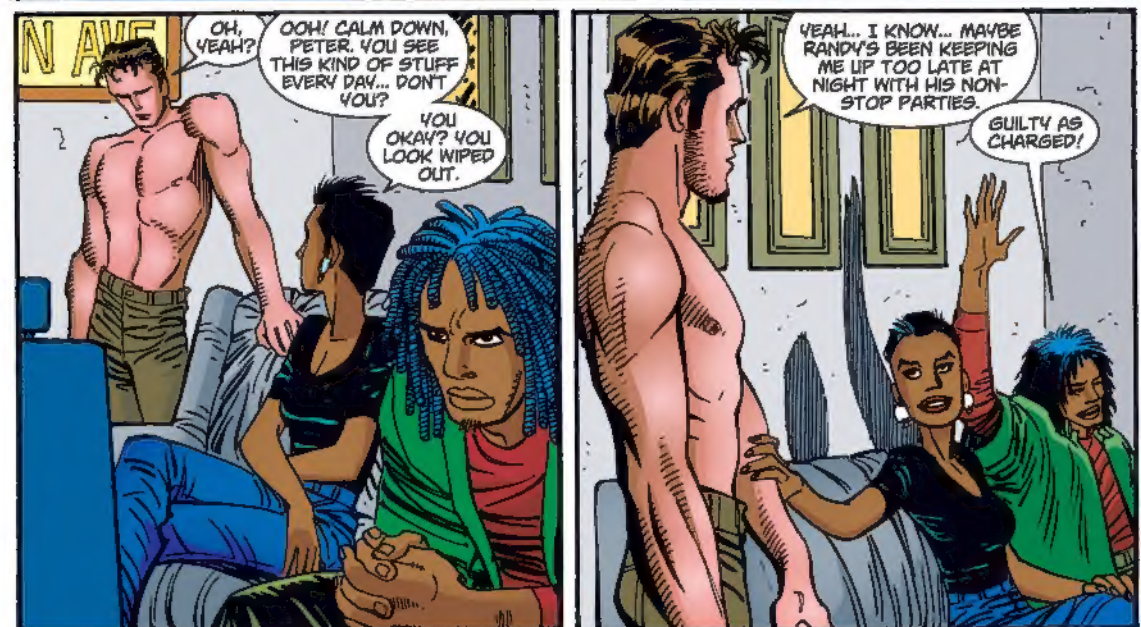
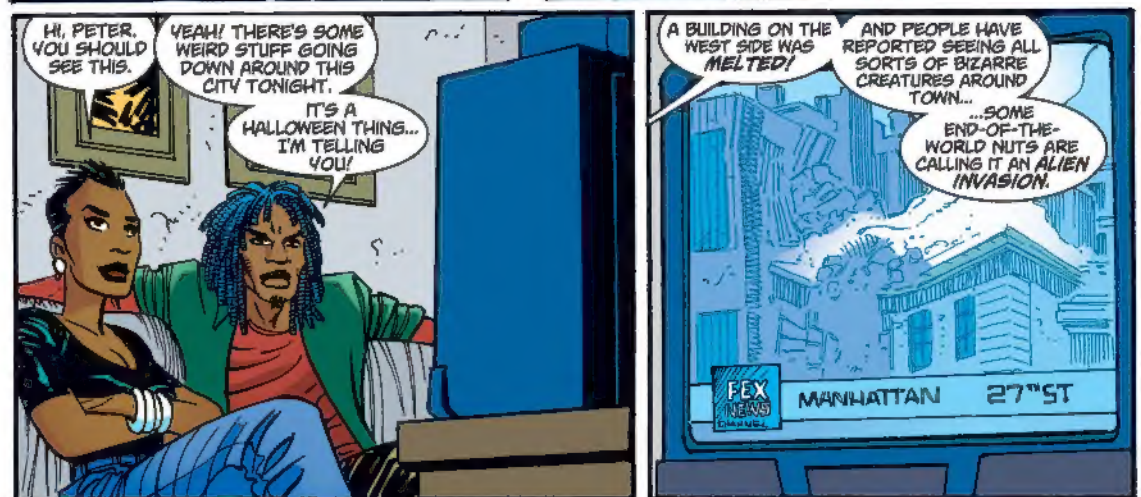
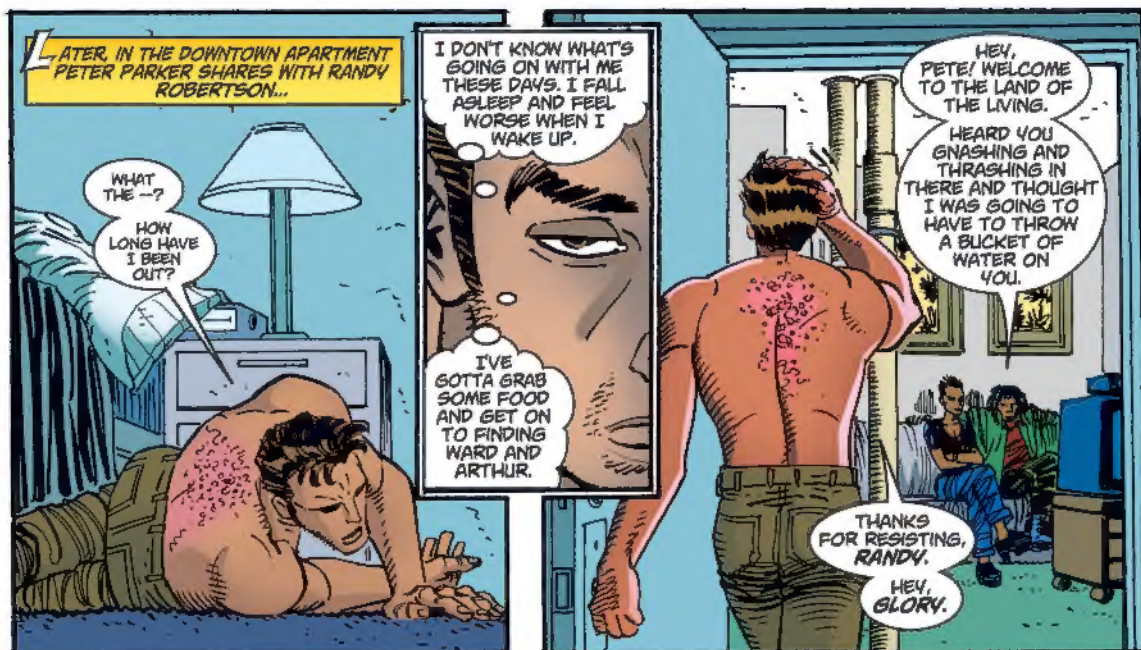
MY EYES! I CAN'T SEE! I --



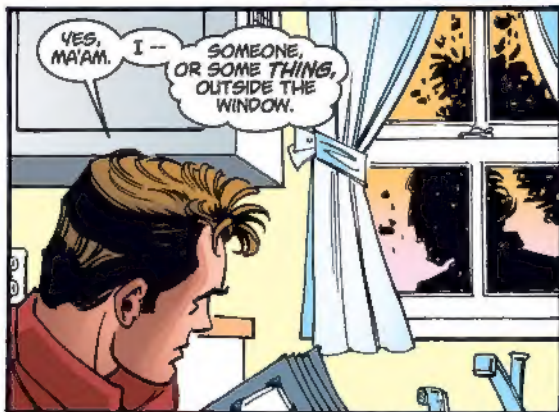
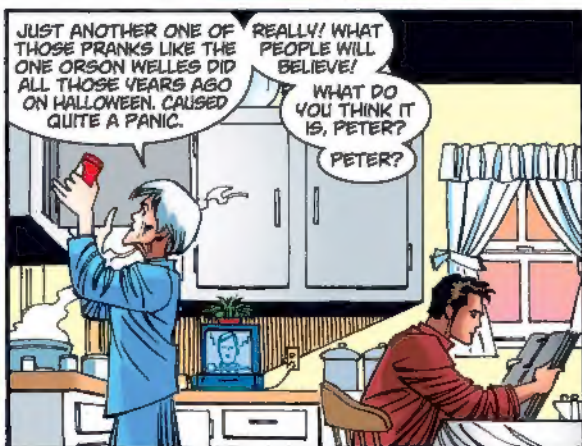
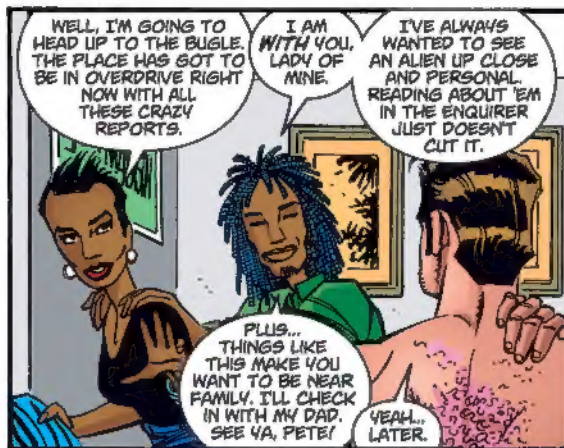
HAHAHAHAHA!

HAHAHA!

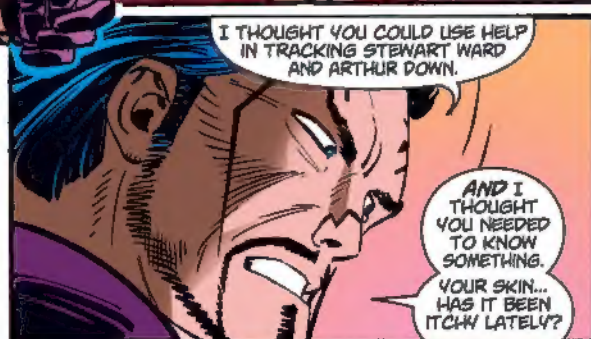




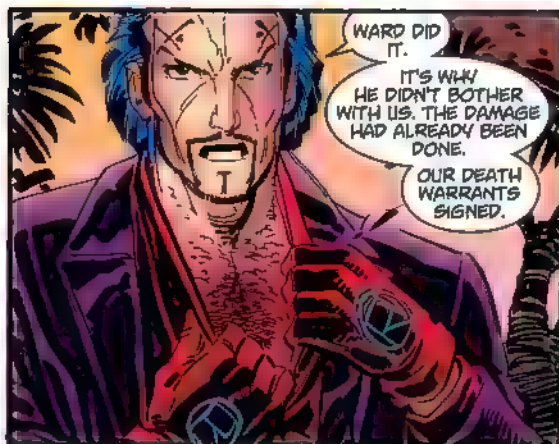








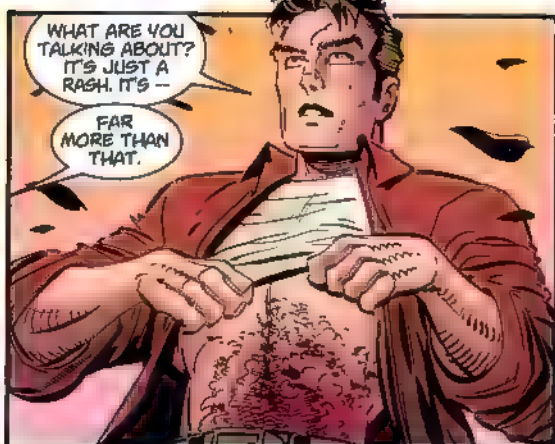




WARD DID IT.

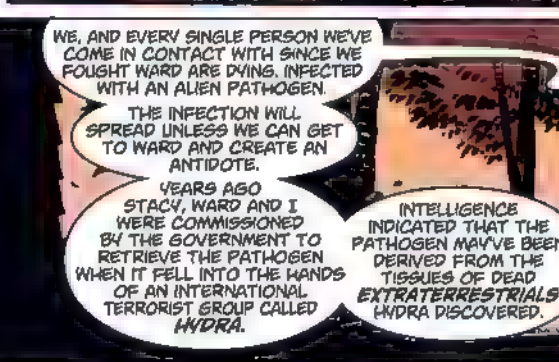
IT'S WHY HE DIDN'T BOTHER WITH US. THE DAMAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE.

OUR DEATH WARRANTS SIGNED.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S JUST A RASH. IT'S --

FAR MORE THAN THAT.

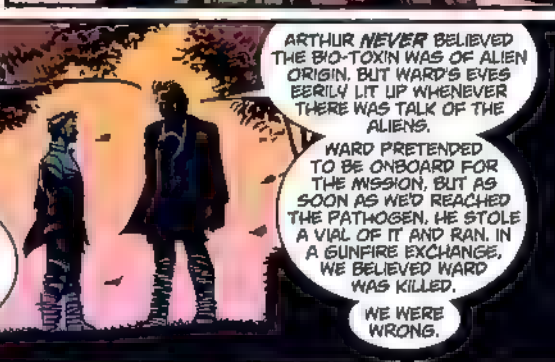


WE, AND EVERY SINGLE PERSON WE'VE COME IN CONTACT WITH SINCE WE FOUGHT WARD ARE DYING. INFECTED WITH AN ALIEN PATHOGEN.

THE INFECTION WILL SPREAD UNLESS WE CAN GET TO WARD AND CREATE AN ANTIDOTE.

YEARS AGO STACY, WARD AND I WERE COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RETRIEVE THE PATHOGEN WHEN IT FELL INTO THE HANDS OF AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUP CALLED HYDRA.

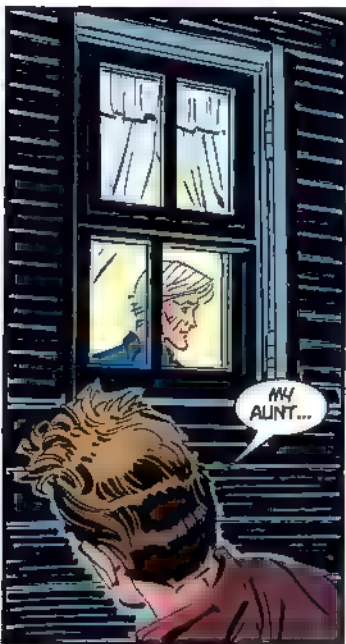
INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT THE PATHOGEN MAY'VE BEEN DERIVED FROM THE TISSUES OF DEAD EXTRATERRESTRIALS HYDRA DISCOVERED.



ARTHUR NEVER BELIEVED THE BIO-TOXIN WAS OF ALIEN ORIGIN. BUT WARD'S EYES BEERILY LIT UP WHENEVER THERE WAS TALK OF THE ALIENS.

WARD PRETENDED TO BE ONBOARD FOR THE MISSION. BUT AS SOON AS WE'D REACHED THE PATHOGEN, HE STOLE A VIAL OF IT AND RAN. IN A GUNFIRE EXCHANGE, WE BELIEVED WARD WAS KILLED.

WE WERE WRONG.



MY AUNT...



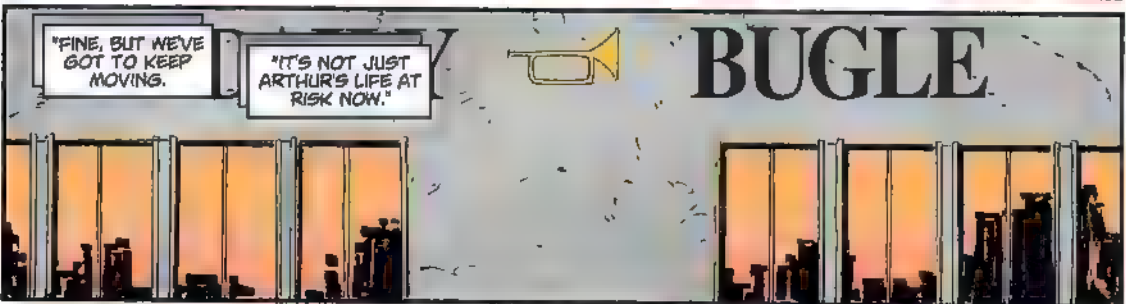
...RANDY... GLORY...



ALL INFECTED BY YOU, BUT THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT SOONER OR LATER. IT APPEARS TO BE PART OF WARD'S PLAN.

I WANT TO HEAR IT ALL. FROM THE BEGINNING.

I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT WARD



"FINE, BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING."

"IT'S NOT JUST ARTHUR'S LIFE AT RISK NOW."

BUGLE





"IT APPEARS THAT THE PATHOGEN IS AIRBORNE."

"RAPIDLY SPREADING FROM PERSON TO PERSON UNTIL, SOON..."



"...THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE INFECTED."



"THE DEATH TOLL WILL BE INCREDIBLE. THE BLACK DEATH WILL PALE IN COMPARISON."

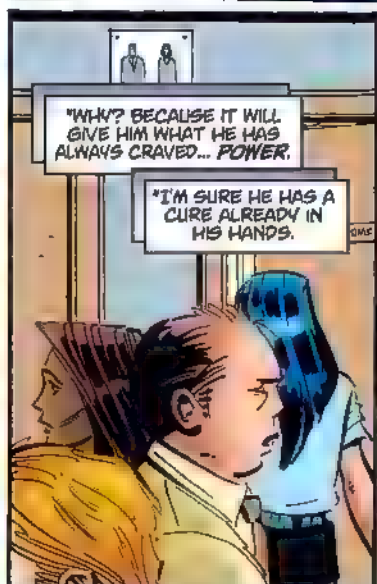
"ALL THESE YEARS TRACKING WARD DOWN, WATCHING HIS POLITICAL RISE, AND I NEVER IMAGINED THAT THIS WAS HIS PLAN."



"DIDN'T THINK ANYONE... NOT EVEN HIM... WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SUCH RUTHLESSNESS."



"BUT WHY? WHAT DOES HE STAND TO GAIN FROM THIS?"



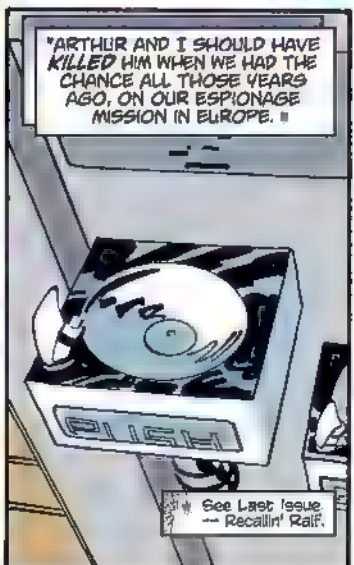
"WHY? BECAUSE IT WILL GIVE HIM WHAT HE HAS ALWAYS CRAVED... POWER."

"I'M SURE HE HAS A CURE ALREADY IN HIS HANDS."



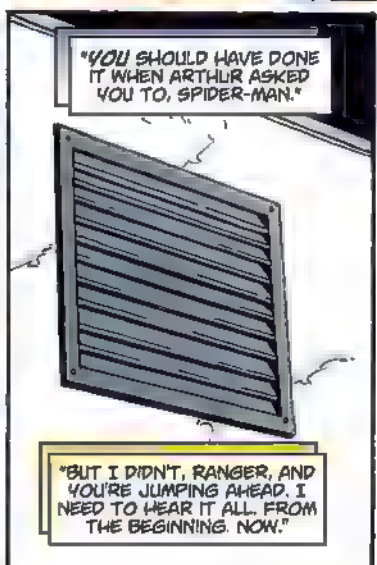
"AND, AS THE SOLE SOURCE OF SUCH AN ANTIGEN, NATIONS WILL HAVE TO BOW AND DO HIS BIDDING."

"IT'S THE ONLY THING THE MAN HAS EVER WANTED. THE ALIEN BEING WHO CONTACTED WARD CHOSE HIS SUBJECT WELL. WARD WOULD BETRAY EVEN THE HUMAN RACE FOR POWER."



"ARTHUR AND I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, ON OUR ESPIONAGE MISSION IN EUROPE."

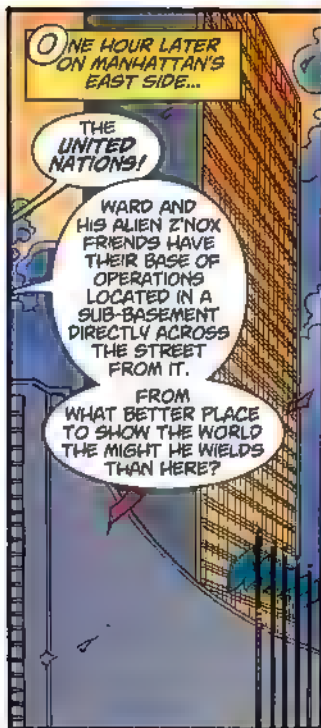
\* See Last Issue  
— Recallin' Ralf.



"YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE IT WHEN ARTHUR ASKED YOU TO, SPIDER-MAN."

"BUT I DIDN'T, RANGER, AND YOU'RE JUMPING AHEAD. I NEED TO HEAR IT ALL FROM THE BEGINNING. NOW."



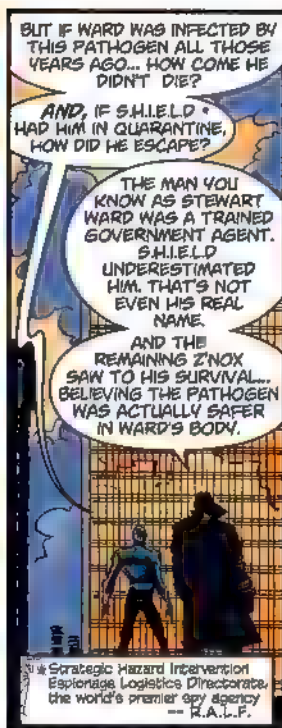


ONE HOUR LATER  
ON MANHATTAN'S  
EAST SIDE...

THE  
UNITED  
NATIONS!

WARD AND  
HIS ALIEN Z'NOX  
FRIENDS HAVE  
THEIR BASE OF  
OPERATIONS  
LOCATED IN A  
SUB-BASEMENT  
DIRECTLY ACROSS  
THE STREET  
FROM IT.

FROM  
WHAT BETTER PLACE  
TO SHOW THE WORLD  
THE MIGHT HE WIELDS  
THAN HERE?



BUT IF WARD WAS INFECTED BY  
THIS PATHOGEN ALL THOSE  
YEARS AGO... HOW COME HE  
DIDN'T DIE?

AND, IF S.H.I.E.L.D.  
HAD HIM IN QUARANTINE,  
HOW DID HE ESCAPE?

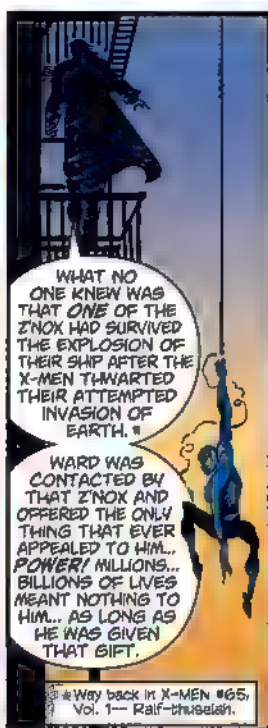
THE MAN YOU  
KNOW AS STEWART  
WARD WAS A TRAINED  
GOVERNMENT AGENT.  
S.H.I.E.L.D.  
UNDERESTIMATED  
HIM. THAT'S NOT  
EVEN HIS REAL  
NAME.

AND THE  
REMAINING Z'NOX  
SAW TO HIS SURVIVAL...  
BELIEVING THE PATHOGEN  
WAS ACTUALLY SAFER  
IN WARD'S BODY.

Strategic Hazard Intervention  
Espionage Logistics Directorate  
the world's premier spy agency  
-- R.A.L.F.



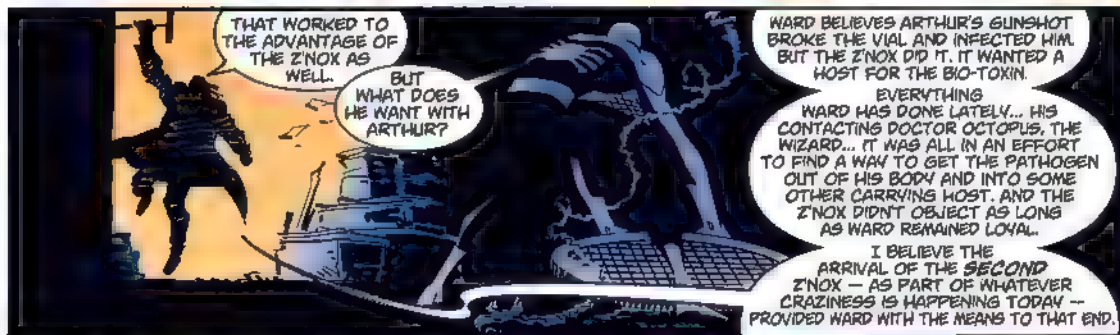
THE PATHOGEN WAS  
ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED  
BY THE Z'NOX AS A  
FAILSAFE DEVICE TO  
DESTROY THE EARTH IF  
THEIR INITIAL INVASION  
FAILED. HYDRA MERELY  
MODIFIED IT.



WHAT NO  
ONE KNEW WAS  
THAT ONE OF THE  
Z'NOX HAD SURVIVED  
THE EXPLOSION OF  
THEIR SHIP AFTER THE  
X-MEN THWARTED  
THEIR ATTEMPTED  
INVASION OF  
EARTH.

WARD WAS  
CONTACTED BY  
THAT Z'NOX AND  
OFFERED THE ONLY  
THING THAT EVER  
APPEALED TO HIM...  
**POWER!** MILLIONS...  
BILLIONS OF LIVES  
MEANT NOTHING TO  
HIM... AS LONG AS  
HE WAS GIVEN  
THAT GIFT.

Way back in X-MEN #65,  
Vol. 1 -- Ralf-thrusion.



THAT WORKED TO  
THE ADVANTAGE OF  
THE Z'NOX AS  
WELL.

BUT  
WHAT DOES  
HE WANT WITH  
ARTHUR?

WARD BELIEVES ARTHUR'S GUNSHOT  
BROKE THE VIAL AND INFECTED HIM.  
BUT THE Z'NOX DID IT. IT WANTED A  
HOST FOR THE BIO-TOXIN.

EVERYTHING  
WARD HAS DONE LATELY... HIS  
CONTACTING DOCTOR OCTOPUS, THE  
WIZARD... IT WAS ALL IN AN EFFORT  
TO FIND A WAY TO GET THE PATHOGEN  
OUT OF HIS BODY AND INTO SOME  
OTHER CARRYING HOST. AND THE  
Z'NOX DIDN'T OBJECT AS LONG  
AS WARD REMAINED LOYAL.

I BELIEVE THE  
ARRIVAL OF THE **SECOND**  
Z'NOX -- AS PART OF WHATEVER  
CRAZINESS IS HAPPENING TODAY --  
PROVIDED WARD WITH THE MEANS TO THAT END.



AND WHAT BETTER HOST COULD WARD  
IMAGINE THAN THE MAN HE HAS BLAMED  
FOR HIS PREDICAMENT ALL ALONG...  
ARTHUR STACY.

PLUS... I THINK  
THERE'S SOMETHING MORE...  
SOMETHING PERSONAL BETWEEN  
THEM. ARTHUR NEVER TOLD ME.



IT REALLY DOESN'T  
MATTER BECAUSE  
WE'VE GOT TO  
STOP HIM.

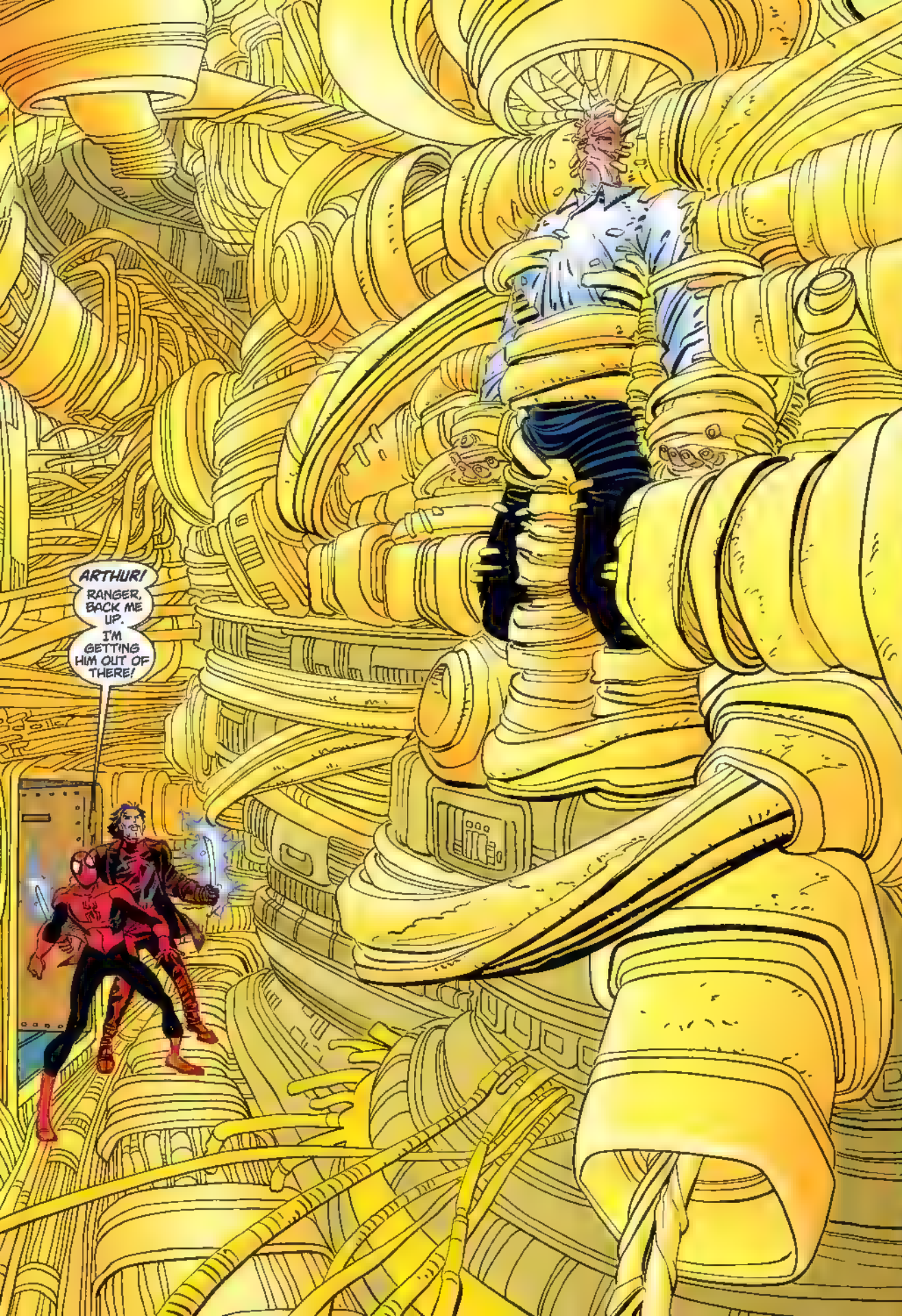
YOU HAVE  
AN UNCANNY  
KNACK FOR  
STATING THE  
OBVIOUS,  
SPIDER-  
MAN.

THANKS.  
I WORK AT  
IT.



LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE HERE.  
READY... SET...  
GO --!





ARTHUR!  
RANGER,  
BACK ME  
UP.  
I'M  
GETTING  
HIM OUT  
OF THERE!

NO, SPIDER-MAN...  
FREEING ME IS THE  
LEAST IMPORTANT  
THING RIGHT  
NOW.

YOU'VE GOT  
TO FIND WARD AND  
GET THE ANTIDOTE...  
OR WE ARE ALL  
GOING TO DIE,  
ANYWAY.

YEAH... RIGHT, ARTHUR. I  
WILL... AFTER I GET YOU  
LOOSE FROM THIS  
STUFF.

DOLPH! THIS  
STUFF IS LIKE STEEL!  
RANGER, I'M GOING  
TO NEED A HAND  
UP HERE!

ARTHUR IS  
SPEAKING THE  
TRUTH, SPIDER-MAN.  
WE ARE ALL GOING  
TO DIE.

FREE HIM... DON'T FREE  
HIM... HIS FATE REMAINS  
THE SAME.

EXCELLENT. NICE TO  
SEE THAT WE ARE ALL  
REASONABLE MEN...  
SO TO SPEAK.

YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO GET  
AWAY WITH THIS,  
WARD.

BUT  
I ALREADY  
HAVE.

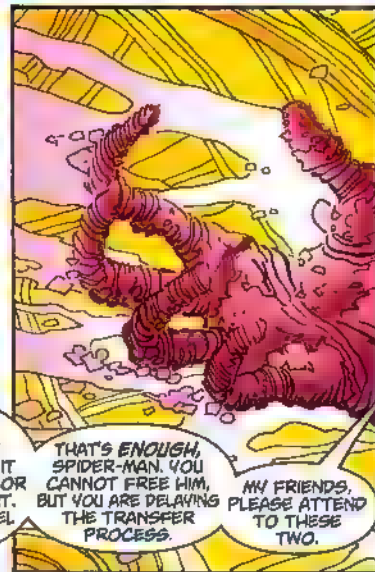
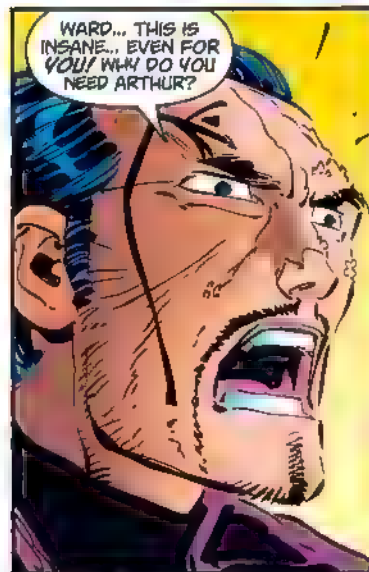
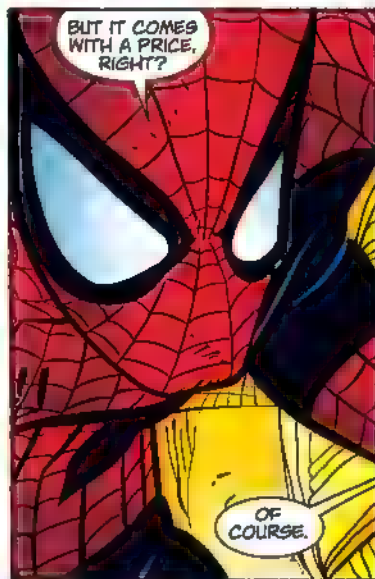
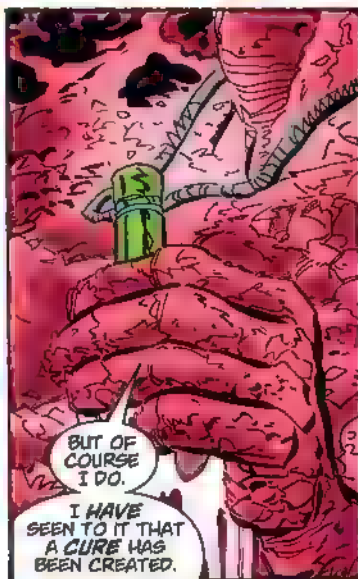
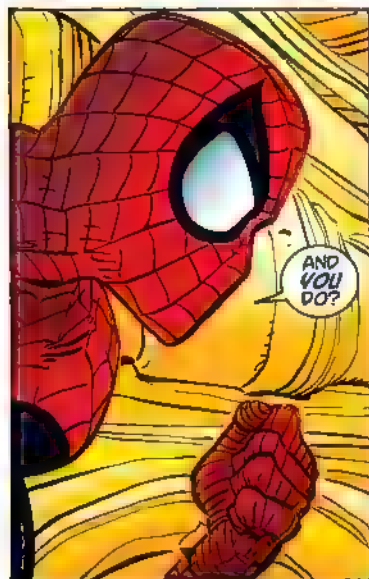
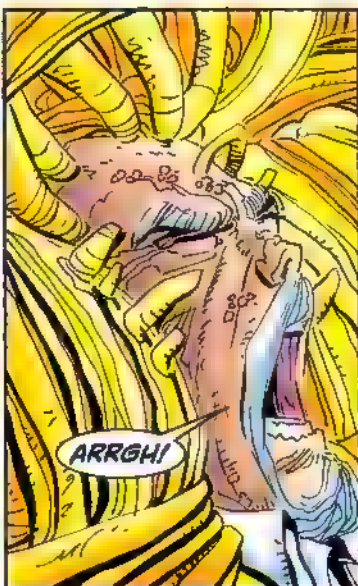
MY Z'NOX ALLIES  
HAVE PROVIDED THE  
NECESSARY KEY TO UNLEASH THE  
PATHOGEN WHICH HAS BEEN TRAPPED  
IN MY BODY FOR SO LONG.

AND SALVATION CAME WHEN AN  
ALIEN COMMISSION IMPRISONED  
TWO Z'NOX SCIENTISTS ON  
THIS PLANET ALONG WITH A  
HORDE OF OTHER ALIEN  
CRIMINALS.

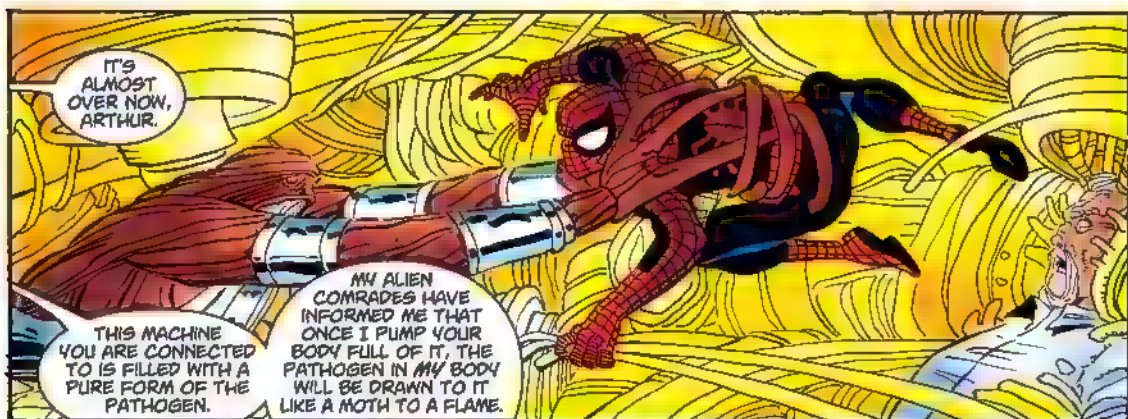
NOT MUCH OF A  
POLITICIAN, ARE YOU, WARD? NOT  
VERY PERSUASIVE IF YOU COULDN'T  
EVEN ENLIST THE AID OF CRIMINALS  
AND MADMEN IN THIS SCHEME  
OF YOURS!

AND I DOUBT SINCERELY  
WHETHER THESE CREATURES  
WITH YOU ARE ACTUALLY  
ALIENS. MORE THAN LIKELY  
THEY'RE MUTATED HUMANS  
BRED BY HYDRA.





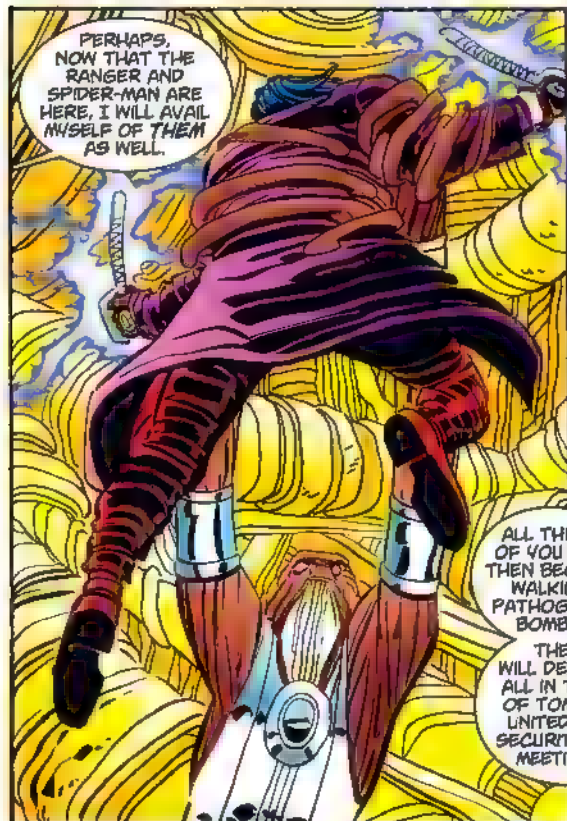




IT'S  
ALMOST  
OVER NOW,  
ARTHUR.

THIS MACHINE  
YOU ARE CONNECTED  
TO IS FILLED WITH A  
PURE FORM OF THE  
PATHOGEN.

MY ALIEN  
COMRADES HAVE  
INFORMED ME THAT  
ONCE I PUMP YOUR  
BODY FULL OF IT, THE  
PATHOGEN IN MY BODY  
WILL BE DRAWN TO IT  
LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME.

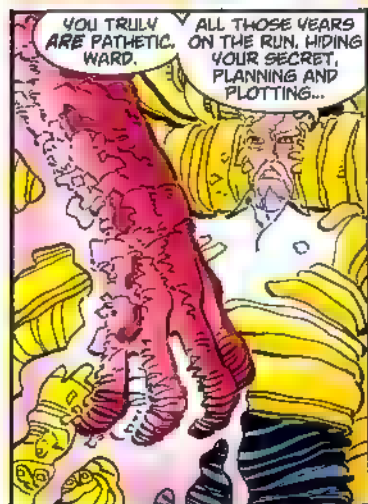
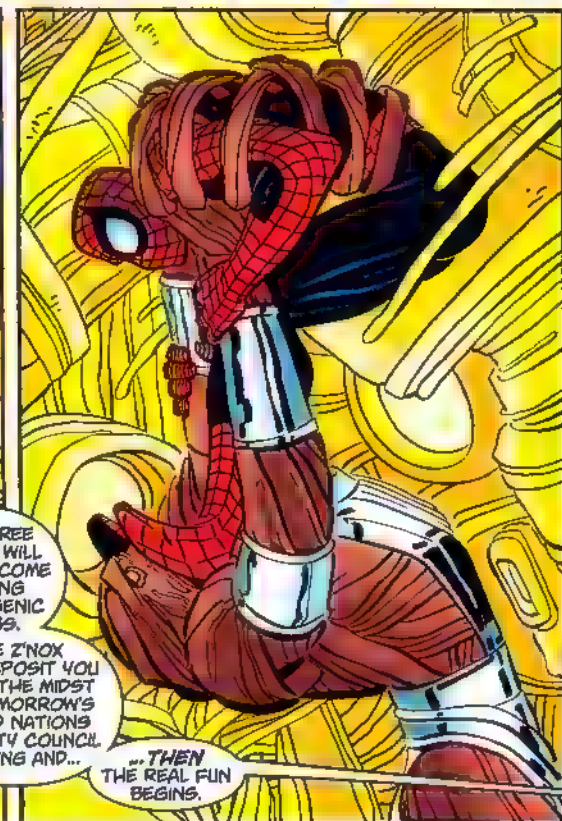


PERHAPS,  
NOW THAT THE  
RANGER AND  
SPIDER-MAN ARE  
HERE, I WILL AVAIL  
MYSELF OF THEM  
AS WELL.

ALL THREE  
OF YOU WILL  
THEN BECOME  
WALKING  
PATHOGENIC  
BOMBS.

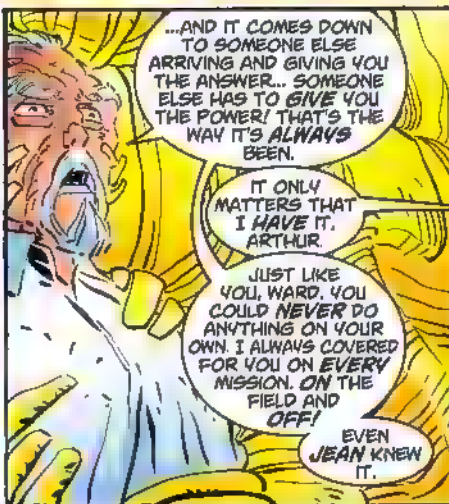
THE Z'NOX  
WILL DEPOSIT YOU  
ALL IN THE MIDST  
OF TOMORROW'S  
UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL  
MEETING AND...

"THEN  
THE REAL FUN  
BEGINS.



YOU TRULY  
ARE PATHETIC,  
WARD.

ALL THOSE YEARS  
ON THE RUN, HIDING  
YOUR SECRET,  
PLANNING AND  
PLOTING...



...AND IT COMES DOWN  
TO SOMEONE ELSE  
ARRIVING AND GIVING YOU  
THE ANSWER... SOMEONE  
ELSE HAS TO GIVE YOU  
THE POWER! THAT'S THE  
WAY IT'S ALWAYS  
BEEN.

IT ONLY  
MATTERS THAT  
I HAVE IT,  
ARTHUR.

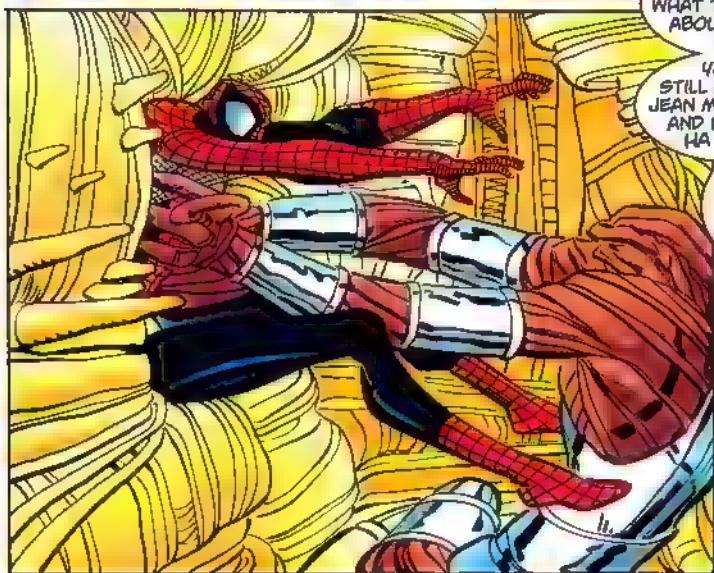
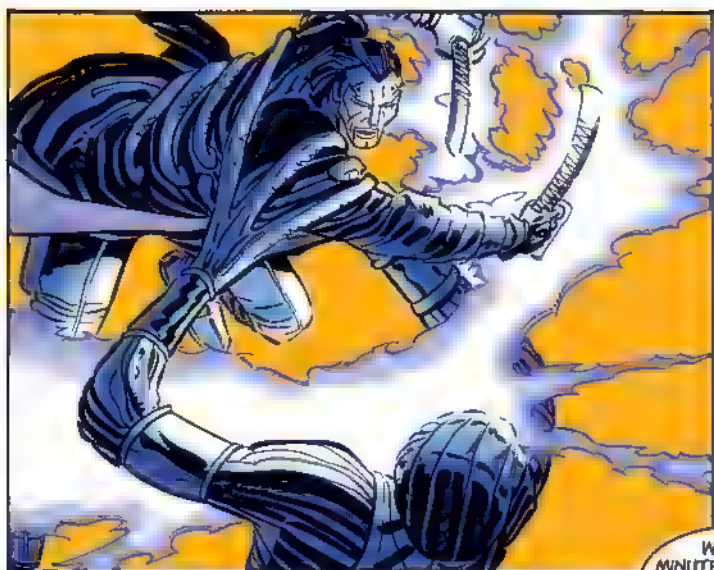
JUST LIKE  
YOU, WARD, YOU  
COULD NEVER DO  
ANYTHING ON YOUR  
OWN. I ALWAYS COVERED  
FOR YOU ON EVERY  
MISSION. ON THE  
FIELD AND  
OFF!

EVEN  
JEAN KNEW  
IT.



IT'S WHY  
YOU COULD  
NEVER WIN HER  
OVER NO MATTER  
HOW HARD YOU  
TRIED.

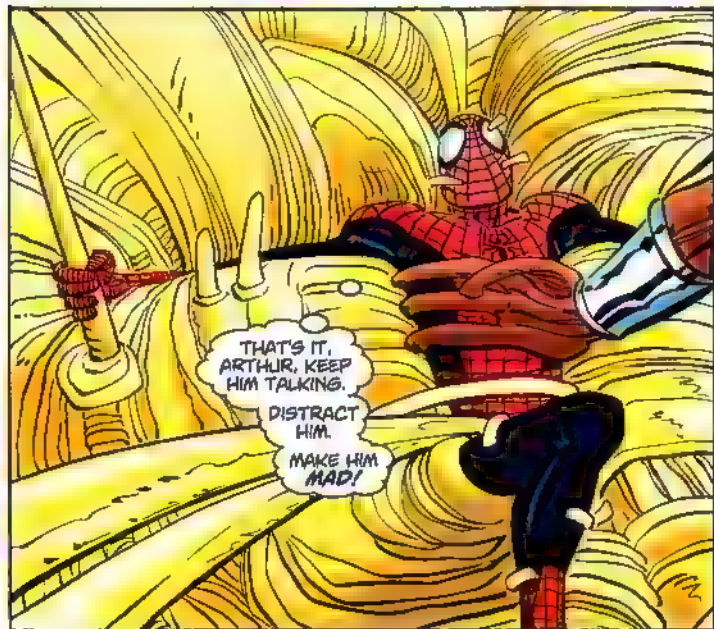
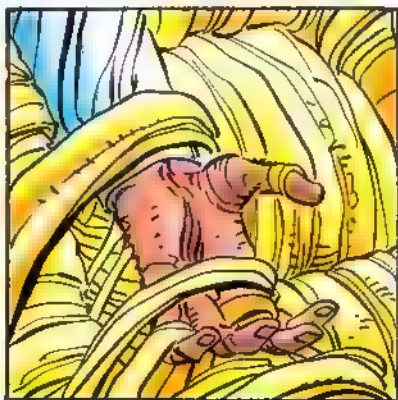
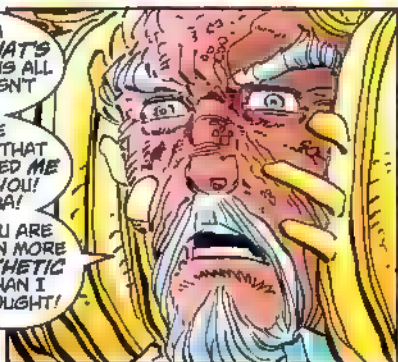




WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT... ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE STILL MAD THAT JEAN MARRIED ME AND NOT YOU! HA HA HA!

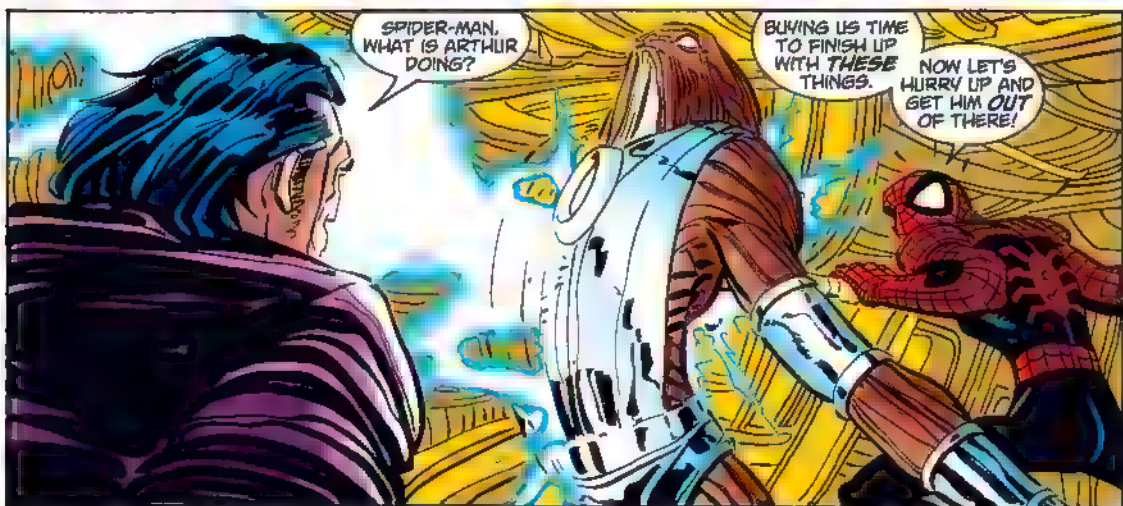
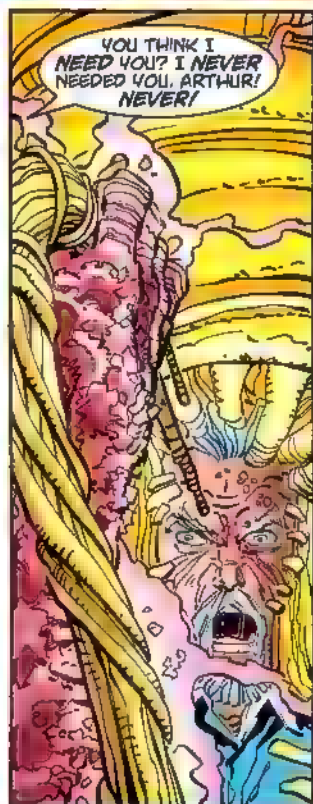
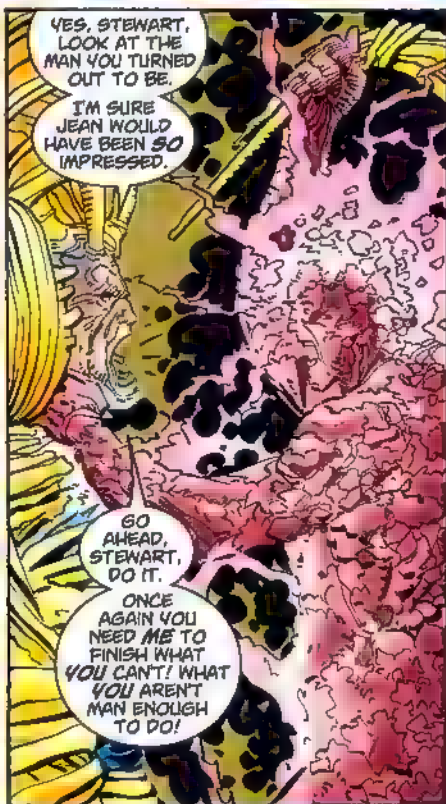
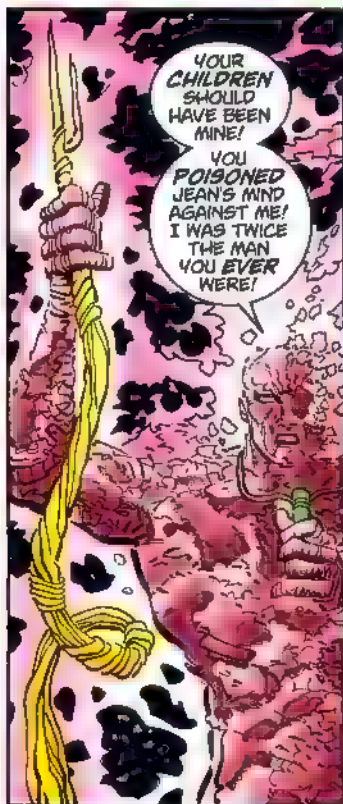
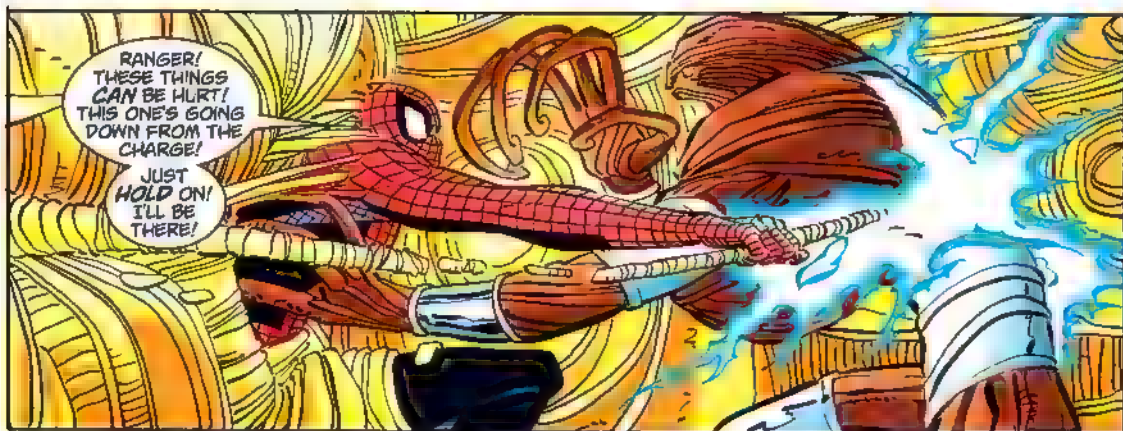
YOU ARE EVEN MORE PATHETIC THAN I THOUGHT!



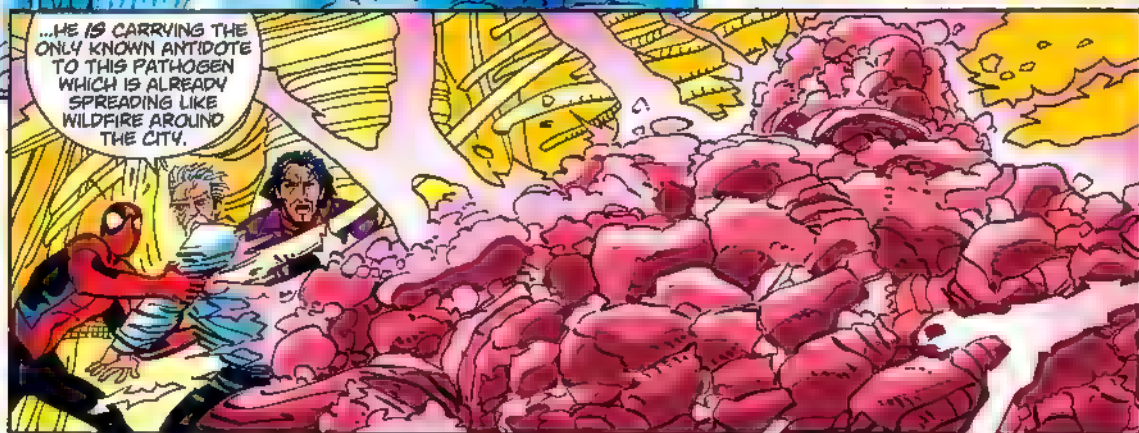
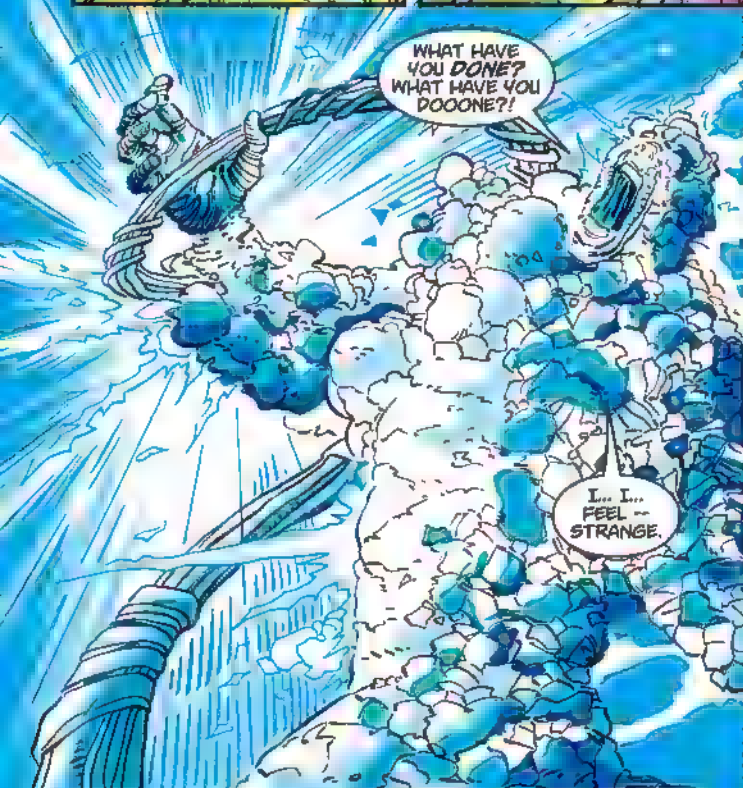
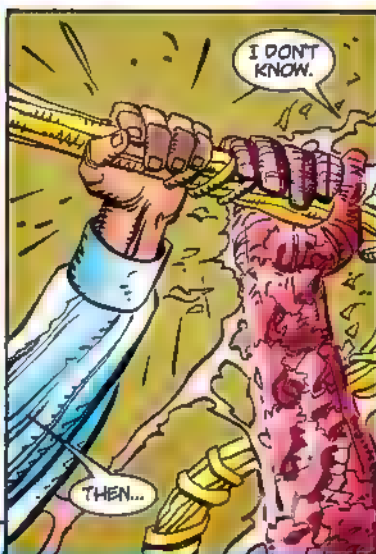
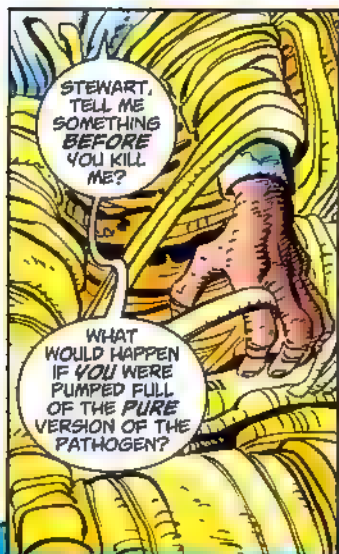
THAT'S IT, ARTHUR, KEEP HIM TALKING. DISTRACT HIM. MAKE HIM MAD!















THAT'S RIGHT,  
ARTHUR!  
I DO  
HAVE THE  
CURE!

AND  
WITHOUT IT  
THIS ENTIRE  
PLANET CAN  
ROT!

BUT FIRST I  
WILL HAVE THE  
SATISFACTION  
OF...

...KILLING  
YOU!

WE HAVE TO  
GET TO THAT  
VIAL.

ALL OF  
THE PATHOGEN IS  
CONTAINED IN HIS BODY.  
IF THE ANTIDOTE WORKS...  
AND WE CAN INJECT IT  
DIRECTLY INTO WARD'S  
BLOODSTREAM...

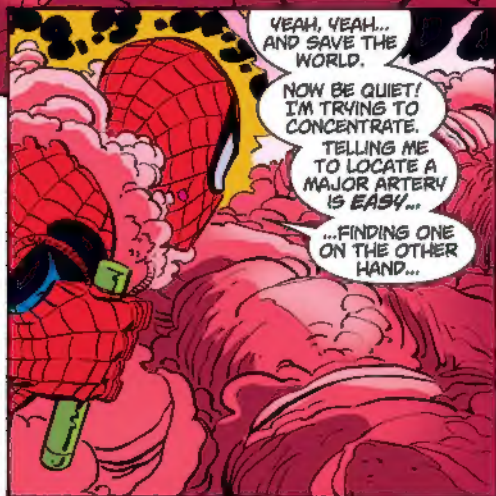
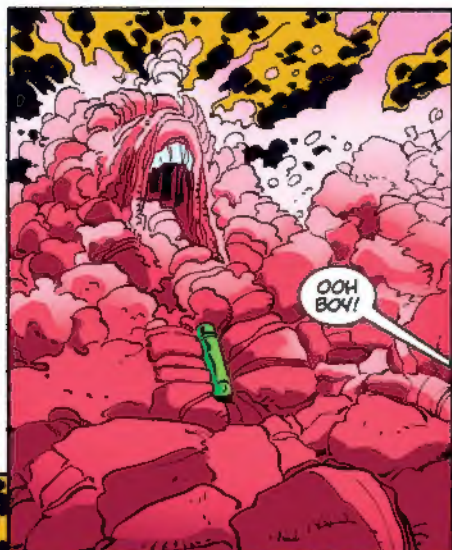
**FWAM**

OKAY,  
ARTHUR, BIG  
UGLY MONSTER  
GUYS AND SAVING  
THE WORLD ARE MY  
BAILIwick.

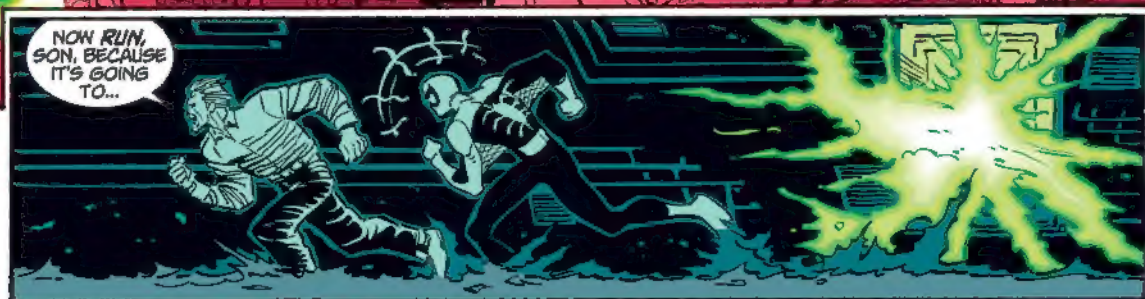
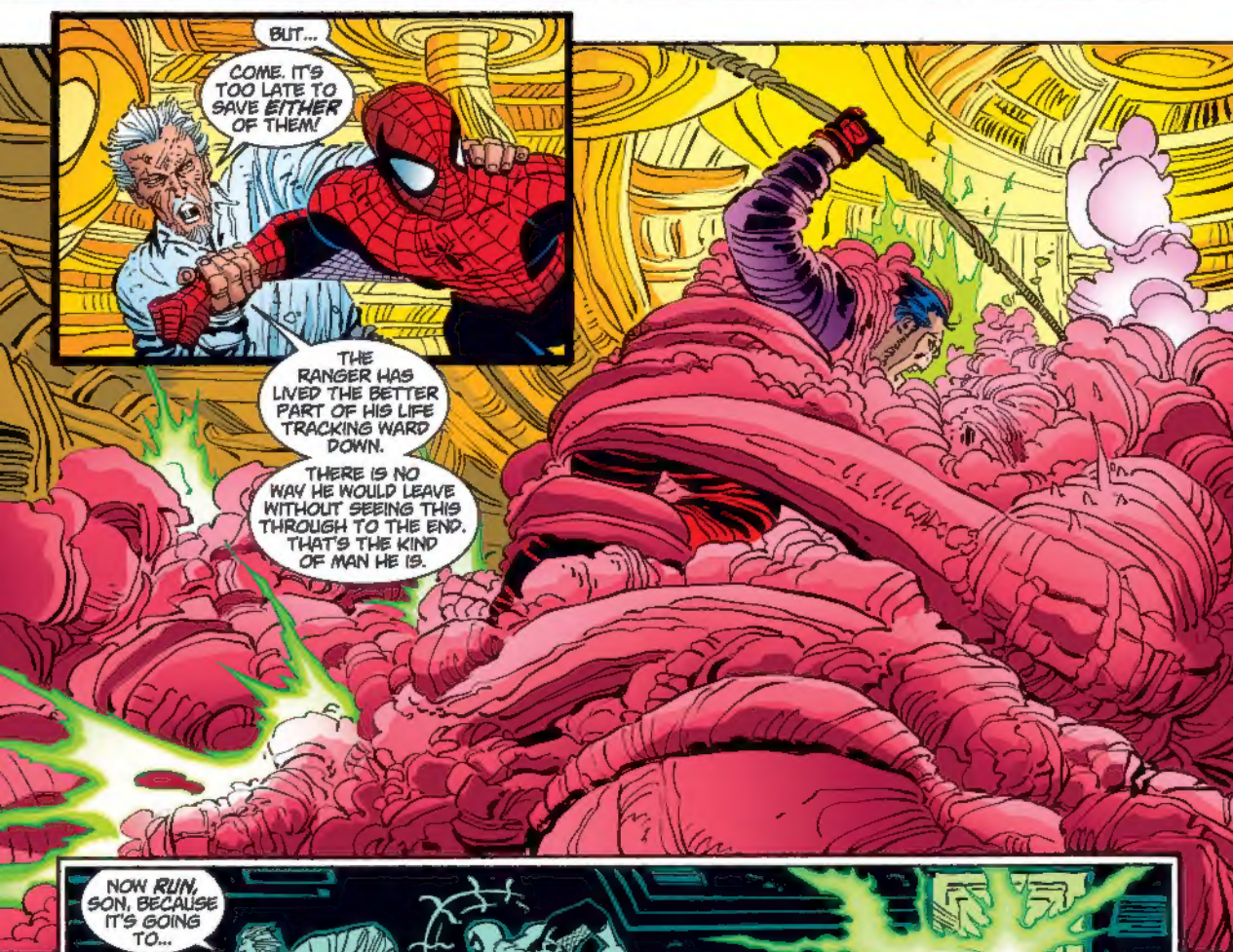
DID I FIT  
BAILIwick INTO A  
CONVERSATION?

COOL!











# SPLASH

